

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2005/050251

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B8/06 A61B8/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 800 357 A (WITT ET AL) 1 September 1998 (1998-09-01) cited in the application the whole document	13,14
X	US 6 352 509 B1 (KAWAGISHI TETSUYA ET AL) 5 March 2002 (2002-03-05) abstract column 1, lines 53-67	13,14
X	US 2001/056236 A1 (ANGELSEN BJORN) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) paragraph '0070!	13,14
A	US 6 095 980 A (BURNS ET AL) 1 August 2000 (2000-08-01) abstract figure 2	13,14
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl;
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Willig, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2005/050251

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/111553 A1 (BROCK-FISHER GEORGE A ET AL) 15 August 2002 (2002-08-15) claim 1 -----	13,14

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 1-12,15

Claims 1-11 and 15 relate to methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery (Rule 39.1(iv) PCT). The reasons are as follows.

The methods claimed in independent claims 1 and 15 implicitly require the administration of an ultrasound contrast agent to the living human or animal body. The administration of an ultrasound contrast agent is generally performed by way of injection or infusion, in the present case by intravenous injection (see p. 4, l. 10). The administration of the ultrasound contrast agent is, therefore, considered a surgical step, by means of which the claimed methods as a whole are considered to be methods for treatment by surgery.

Claim 12 is clearly related to a computer program (Rule 39.1 (vi) PCT).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/050251

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-12, 15
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB2005/050251

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5800357	A	01-09-1998	NONE	
US 6352509	B1	05-03-2002	JP 2000210289 A	02-08-2000
US 2001056236	A1	27-12-2001	WO 02056666 A2	25-07-2002
US 6095980	A	01-08-2000	EP 0913704 A2	06-05-1999
			JP 11178824 A	06-07-1999
			NO 984604 A	06-04-1999
US 2002111553	A1	15-08-2002	US 6398732 B1	04-06-2002